

WHAT IS THE MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM?

Migrant Education is a national program that provides supplemental education and support services to more than 825,000 eligible migrant children each year. These services help children of migrant workers overcome the disadvantages they face, including disruption to their education.

The Migrant Education Program grew out of the Title I program of Public Law 89-10, passed in 1965, to help all disadvantaged children. Because migrant children have some needs that are different from those of other children, they require special help and services. For this reason, the Migrant Education Program was established separately by an amendment to Title I in 1966. The law to continue the Migrant Education Program has been reauthorized every five years since that time. The latest reauthorization was in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

WHO ARE MIGRANT WORKERS?

Migrant workers seek temporary or seasonal work in agriculture, fishing or related industries, including food processing. They follow the growing seasons across the country and are largely responsible for the cultivation and harvest of fruits, vegetables and many other food products. Many migrant workers have an average income below the national poverty line.

The national migrant population is made up of diverse ethnic groups. In Indiana, ninety-eight percent of all the migrant population is Hispanic with the other two percent being white non-Hispanic. The majority of the families are home based in Texas, Florida, California, and Mexico. There are some families though that consider Indiana to be their home base.

WHY GIVE SPECIAL HELP TO MIGRANT CHILDREN?

Most school programs, including those supported by Title I, are set up on a nine-month academic calendar. However, when migrant children move with their families, their education - as well as their lives - is disrupted, often many times a year. Migrant children may come from large families with inadequate living space and low incomes. Poor nutrition, housing and sanitary conditions may cause a high incidence of health problems. Migrant children may have limited English skills and/or little experience with success at school.

These problems, combined with irregular school attendance, often lead to overall frustration and low academic performance, causing many migrant children to drop out of school in their teens. Because they are poorly prepared for and have little knowledge of other kinds of work, migrant young people usually face a high risk of unemployment or become part of the migrant labor force.

However, these children can be helped to enjoy school and overcome their difficulties. Through the Migrant Education Program, they can achieve an education and develop self-confidence and self-esteem.

WHAT MAKES A CHILD ELIGIBLE?

To qualify for the Migrant Education Program, a migrant child must have moved within the past three years across state or school district lines with a migrant parent or guardian to enable the child, the child's guardian, or a member of the immediate family (including a spouse) to obtain employment in an agricultural, fishing, or food processing activity. The child may be in any grade between preschool and 12th grade and from ages three but not older than twenty-one years.

Migrant children can be either **interstate** or **intrastate**. An interstate migrant child is one who has moved within the past three years from one state to another with his/her family to find qualifying work. An intrastate migrant child is one who has moved within the past three years to another school district, but from within the same state.



INDIANA MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

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A Harvest of Hope for
Migrant Children and the
Communities in
Which They Live
and Learn

Migrant Education Field Office

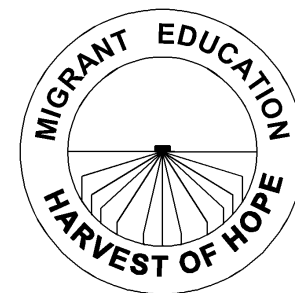
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